

Message Text

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42

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 DRC-01 IO-14 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01

PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19 /155 W

----- 111777

R 130901Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9532

INFO AMEMBASSY BLANTYRE

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMCONSUL LUANDA

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, RH

SUBJ: SECRET REFERENDUM REJECTS SMITH'S LEADERSHIP

1. ZAMBIA NEWS AGENCY (ZANA) REPORT PICKED UP BY LOCAL PRESS NOV 7 DETAILED "SECRET REFERENDUM" ALLEGEDLY HELD IN RHODESIA WHICH CONSIDERED ALTERNATIVES TO IAN SMITH'S LEADERSHIP. THREE NAME WERE PUT FORWARD AS POSSIBLE REPLACEMENTS TO ADMIN-ISTER COLONY ON INTERIM BASIS. THESE INCLUDED ROY WELENSKY, ALEC DOUGLAS HOME, AND ONE WHOSE NAME IS "GUARDED SECRET." BOTH WELENSKY AND HOME FAILED GAIN SUFFICIENT SUPPORT.

2. ACCORDING REPORT, SALISBURY SOURCE TOLD ZANA REFERENDUM CONDUCTED AMONG EUROPEAN FARMERS, CHURCHMEN, MEMBERS OF RHODESIAN ARMED FORCES, AND BLACK RHODESIANS. CLAIMED REGIME FAILED DETECT REFERENDUM AS INFORMERS WERE BOUGHT OFF. BLACK OPINION GATHERED AT FUNERALS, DANCES, SPORTS MEETINGS AND IN CHURCHES THROUGH SHOW OF HANDS. WHITE OPINION CANVASSED AT COOKOUTS ON FARMS AT WHICH FREEDOM FIGHTERS, DISGUISED AS FARM
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LABORERS, PARTICIPATED IN DEBATES. SOURCE SAID WELENSKY LEARNED

OF REFERENDUM AND IT PRECIPITATED HIS RECENT TRIP TO LONDON
TO ASK FOR HMG'S BLESSING.

3. COMMENT. WHILE DISSATISFACTION WITH SMITH'S LEADERSHIP MAY
BE INCREASING AMONG RHODESIA'S WHITES, STORY OF "SECRET
REFERENDUM" UNDETECTED BY REGIME OF COURSE NOT CREDIBLE. ANY
POLL AMONG BLACKS WOULD HAVE BEEN REPORTED TO AUTHORITIES BY
INFORMERS WITHIN HOURS. INCONCEIVABLE FREEDOM FIGHTERS
WOULD HAVE PARTICIPATED IN EXERCISE. AS ZANA USED STORY TO
BUTTRESS REPORT SECOND UDI BUILDING UP IN RHODESIA, PERHAPS
REFERENDUM STORY WAS GENERATED TO DOWNPLAY EIGHTH ANNIVERSARY
OF RHODESIAN UDI LATER IN WEEK. WILKOWSKI

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Message Attributes

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